

Patent Application: 09/676,791
Docket No: P13900US

Remarks

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-6 were objected to by the Examiner, but are said to be allowable if re-written in independent format. Claims 7-9 are further said to be allowed.

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the allowance of the above-mentioned claims.

Claims Rejections: 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claim 1 stands rejected under section 102 of 35 U.S.C. for being allegedly anticipated by Chen et al. (US Patent 5,943,408). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1 is directed to a generic call server in a telecommunications network for performing call-control functions and interfacing between any two network components selected from a plurality of network components that utilize a plurality of different signalling protocols, said call server comprising:

a Generic Call-control State Machine (GCSM) that performs call-control functions that are common to all of the protocols; and

a plurality of external signalling systems that interface between the GCSM and the selected network components and perform call-control functions that are specific to each protocol.

Chen teaches a direct signaling system for providing subscribers with access to service providers of their choice, regardless of the access network arrangement. The system provides a home interface unit (HIU) and the call server enabling a subscriber to send signaling messages and receive such messages from the service providers of his choice. The home interface unit and the call server execute state machines that provide specific details of system operation.

Chen stops short of teaching a GCSM performing call control functions as claimed by Applicant, which are common to various protocols. The passages referred to by the Examiner merely refer to a call server that executes services for associated subscribers in cooperation with the home interface unit. The call server invokes and coordinates all services provided to the subscriber by receiving outgoing calls and service requests associated to the subscriber. For this purpose, the call server functions according to a state machine that it executes for the subscriber it serves.

In Chen, Figures 4 and 5 referred to by the Examiner, along with their associated description at columns 6 and 7, are also limited to a description of outgoing calls signaling procedures including an interception of a setup message containing information about the calling party and the called party, wherein the call server analyzes information about the called party and invokes services required for the call. Chen merely teaches that the signaling to the call server may be achieved via a known protocol, such as the SS7

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Docket No: P13900US

protocol, but stops short of teaching or suggesting any kind of conversion being performed within the call server between one protocol and another.

Conclusively, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the fact that Chen's teaching is limited to a call server using one specific signalling protocol for invoking services associated with a call, which is common knowledge in the prior art.

However, because Chen is limited to the use of only one signalling protocol, Chen cannot be said to anticipate the present invention wherein a call server comprises a Generic Call-control State Machine that performs call-control functions that are **common to a plurality of protocols**. Because Chen only deals with one protocol, Chen also cannot be said to teach a call server comprising a **plurality of external signalling systems that interface between the Generic Call-control State Machine and the selected network components and perform call-control functions that are specific to each protocol**.

Since Chen stops short of teaching elements of claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is novel and nonobvious, and thus patentable over Chen. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection.

Conclusion

All pending claims 1-13 are herein submitted as being in favorable condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner further believes that Chen comprises relevant subject matter for anticipating or rendering obvious the invention claimed in claim 1, Applicants respectfully invites the Examiner to establish a **clear and non-ambiguous prima-facie case for rejection by providing references to the passages of Chen where the specific elements of claim 1 are disclosed**.

In the Examiner finds out that the prosecution of the present invention would be facilitated by telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, Alex Nicolaescu, at telephone number (514) 345-7900 extension number 2596.

Respectfully submitted,


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USPTO Reg. Number 47,253